

## **Small Group Discussion Questions Spartanburg County**

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Facilities are being upgraded
- Technology-more funds and results
- Admin. Academy- 1<sup>st</sup> in Spartanburg
- High rate of advanced degrees- supported money by districts
- Family connections/parent facilitator (Spartanburg #7)
- Some things in some districts- not others
- EEDA
- More dialogue-Higher education and high schools but employers-technical
- 0-5 much resistance to rate early childhood programs (legislative)
- 4/200 are nationally accredited.
- PCD
- K-4
- Literacy
- Health
- After school / ext. year
- Foundation mentoring
- Alternative schools
- Fresh start
- SCAS
- Drop out prevention
- Teacher pay/ tuition
- Teacher interns
- Partnering with higher education
- Library partnerships with public schools to promote reading
- Faith based partnerships for mentoring, tutoring, and leadership development
- Citizen scholars program-mentoring/financial advisement team building
- Induction/retention programs
- Commitment to adequate compensation financially.
- Active First Steps
- Improving childcare
- 4 family literacy sites
- Altrusa Club- parenting tips and information on adult ed
- School to work programs
- Teacher CADET programs

- Bonner Scholars-Wofford mentoring in schools
- Imagination Library-6500 children registered
- Dual enrollment program
- Charles Lea Center
- 4-K for special risk children and 3-K
- ARTICULATION
- Good school facilities
- Leadership councils
- EASL/ AP
- Upward Bound
- Childcare education at SCC
- Life, Hope Scholarships
- Pre – Service- Credit bearing for practicum's for teachers training
- Experience in classroom is varied by school, grade level
- Practicum placement begins early
- Spartanburg Housing Authority-11 quality housing issues
- District 7 working on stronger community collaboration to support individual students
- Individual schools going in to the communities where students are.
- Citizenship scholars program
- Upstate W/B task force net-educators and industry leaders.
- Funds for grants – project success, - achieve, etc.
- Dual credit with Spartanburg community college, USC upstate, Spartanburg Methodist College
- Strong adult education
- College town initiative.

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Spine at state level
- Drugs in Spartanburg
- One size fits all system of education
- Individual
- Paperwork
- Lowest common denominator
- Teaching as career choice
- Funds-ESOL, special programs
- Poverty

- Poor daycare
- Transient families
- Teen pregnancy
- Community centers
- Learning labs
- Poverty
- Parenting
- Adequate funding for schools
- Alignment of alignment
- Generational cycle of poverty and low literacy
- Little or no motivation (of students)
- Lack of respect for teachers education
- Changing culture and environment
- 7 school districts
- percentage of adult population that has not completed high school, college, or have a positive educational experience-don't
- know how to support their own children
- money – staff
- Aging population-within city- land locked.
- shifting from textile based economy to other industry

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Local rating system – ECD
- Families need support
- Paradigm shift in thinking about education
- Support
- Encourage grant writing
- Reading programs
- Teen pregnancy prevention
- Early childhood intervention
- Partnerships
- Faith community
- Working with legislative delegation re: funding and regulations
- Mentoring
- Encourage collaboration of agencies/ organizations providing services
- Follow through on community improvement plan

- Funding for additional parenting programs
- 4-K for all
- recruit and retain quality teachers
- Provide assistance and after school placement for children from 6-10<sup>th</sup> grades. Parents don't know where to turn.
- Create conditions for more dialogue
- Synchronize our resources
- Mandate parent education classes in high school and day care for students with children on site at high schools and middle schools/junior high
- Building relationships between school and parents
- Stress importance of job prep-extended education opportunities-co-op-2 yr degrees
- Mentor/ advocate
- Stress positive more than negative- student success vs. failure
- Visit a school- 1 school per year
- Take advantage of opportunities to promote the good in our schools.

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Better communication with families
- Communicate sense of urgency
- Refine school clusters
- Encourage "right" decisions
- Have courage to lead